

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION  
SERVICES ACT OF 2016

SPEECH OF

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 21, 2016

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I request that the following extraneous materials on H.R. 5456, the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016 be submitted:

CWLA, TOGETHER, MAKING CHILDREN  
AND FAMILIES A NATIONAL PRIORITY  
Washington, DC, June 13, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,  
Ways and Means Committee, House of Rep-  
resentatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,  
Finance Committee, U.S. Senate,  
Washington DC.

Hon. SANDER LEVIN,  
Ways and Means Committee, House of Rep-  
resentatives,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. RON WYDEN,  
Finance Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington  
DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY AND RANKING MEM-  
BER LEVIN:

DEAR CHAIRMAN HATCH AND RANKING MEM-  
BER WYDEN: The Child Welfare League of  
America endorses the Families First Preven-  
tion Services Act. We feel that the legisla-  
tion offers the important possibility of al-  
lowing funds to provide vital mental health,  
substance use and in-home services that  
could help children stay with their own fami-  
lies. Current funding for this important part  
of a continuum of needed services is lacking  
and we know we must address these areas if  
we are to strengthen the well-being and out-  
comes for children and families that come to  
the child welfare and child protection sys-  
tems.

This legislation provides an important re-  
authorization of the two Title IV-B programs  
including an extension of the adoption-kin-  
ship incentives, court improvement funds,  
workforce development funds tied to case-  
worker visits, and the regional partnership  
grants. The bill includes some needed im-  
provements to the Chaffee program in regard  
to the age of eligibility.

We hope to work with the Congress and the  
Administration in the implementation of  
some of the more challenging aspects of the  
bill to make sure that the oversight and im-  
plementation of the residential care parts of  
this law are carried out in the most effective  
way possible. In the years ahead we also  
hope to push Congress on new strategies that  
can go beyond simply reallocating current  
child welfare funds and instead invest in  
what is truly needed and proven effective.

Thank you again for your dedication and  
hard work.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINE JAMES-BROWN,  
President/CEO, Child Welfare League of  
America.

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND,  
Washington, DC, June 13, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
House of Representatives.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Finance, U.S. Senate.

Hon. VERN BUCHANAN,  
Chairman, Human Resources Subcommittee,  
Committee on Ways and Means, House of  
Representatives.

Hon. SANDY LEVIN,  
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and  
Means, House of Representatives.

Hon. RON WYDEN,  
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance, U.S.  
Senate.

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,  
Ranking Member, Human Resources Sub-  
committee, Committee on Ways and Means,  
House of Representatives.

DEAR WAYS AND MEANS AND SENATE FI-  
NANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN BRADY AND  
HATCH, RANKING MEMBERS LEVIN AND WYDEN  
AND HUMAN RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR-  
MAN BUCHANAN AND RANKING MEMBER DOG-  
GETT: One of the Children's Defense Fund  
(CDF)'s first reports decades ago was Chil-  
dren without Homes: An Examination of  
Public Responsibility to Children in Out-of-  
Home Care and we have been unrelenting  
since in our advocacy for children who come  
to the attention of the child welfare system  
and their families. Today I offer CDF's full  
support of the proposed Family First Preven-  
tion Services Act. It takes historic and long  
overdue steps to direct federal child welfare  
dollars to improve outcomes for vulnerable  
children and families. I urge you to move to-  
ward a timely mark up in both the House  
and Senate so these vulnerable children do  
not have to wait longer for these important  
reforms.

Especially significant are the redirected  
funds in the Act for services and programs to  
assist children at risk of foster care to re-  
main safely with parents or family care-  
givers. The proposal ensures quality preven-  
tion and treatment services for mental  
health and substance abuse problems that  
bring many families to the attention of the  
child welfare system. Such services and  
treatment are especially critical in respond-  
ing to the current heroin and opioid epi-  
demic, and we applaud additional provisions  
to address this crisis. The proposal also helps  
strengthen families and protect children by  
providing them in-home skill-based services.  
At the same time, it requires states to have  
a plan to track and prevent child maltreat-  
ment fatalities.

The Family First Prevention Services Act  
takes important steps to ensure children  
who need foster care will be placed in the  
least-restrictive most family-like setting ap-  
propriate to their needs, and gives special at-  
tention to children whose emotional or other  
special needs require residential treatment.  
It continues to recognize and increase sup-  
ports for grandparents and other relatives  
who step in to care for children when their  
parents cannot; addresses the special needs  
of pregnant and parenting teens and protec-  
tions for their children; and offers supports  
to help older youth transition from foster  
care to adulthood. There is a continued im-  
portant emphasis on ensuring permanent  
families for children.

This new proposal builds on your Commit-  
tees' work on previous bipartisan and bi-

cameral child welfare legislation. In fact, it  
was 36 years ago today, June 13th, 1980 that  
the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare  
Act was passed by Congress and then signed  
into law on June 17th. You followed that  
with the Adoption and Safe Families Act,  
the Foster Care Independence Act, the Fos-  
tering Connections to Success and increasing  
Adoptions Act, and more recently the Pre-  
venting Sex Trafficking and Strengthening  
Families Act, to name several, all of which  
included provisions to begin to better align  
federal funding with improved outcomes for  
vulnerable children and their families. The  
Family First Preventive Services Act now  
takes important next steps.

The Children's Defense Fund looks forward  
to working with all of you to make the pro-  
posed improvements for children in the Fam-  
ily First Prevention Services Act a reality.  
Thank you for your continuing leadership on  
behalf of these most vulnerable children and  
their families.

Sincerely yours,

MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN,  
President.

CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY  
OF AMERICA,  
Chicago, IL, June 14, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
U.S. House of Congress, Washington, DC.

Hon. SANDY LEVIN,  
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and  
Means, U.S. House of Congress, Wash-  
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY AND RANKING MEM-  
BER LEVIN: As a nationwide membership or-  
ganization comprised of many of the most  
long standing and respected child and family  
organizations in the country, Children's  
Home Society of America is writing in sup-  
port of your efforts to promote and improve  
outcomes for many of the hundreds of thou-  
sands of children and youth who come to the  
attention of the child welfare system each  
year, including children in foster care. Over  
the decades the House Ways and Means Com-  
mittee, with bipartisan support, has taken  
significant steps forward on behalf of our  
most vulnerable children and the Family  
First Prevention Services Act of 2016 con-  
tinues those efforts.

Allowing funds under Title IV-E of the So-  
cial Security Act, currently used primarily  
for out-of-home care for children, to be used  
for the first time for prevention services to  
help keep children at risk of placement in  
foster care safely at home with their parents  
or with kin is a significant move in the right  
direction. Kinship caregivers play a critical  
role in protecting children temporarily while  
their parents are not able to and also in en-  
suring new permanent families for children  
who cannot return home.

We strongly support the bill's recognition  
of the importance of quality services for  
these children, which are evidence-based and  
trauma-informed and the importance of ac-  
countability in tracking the provision of  
services and their benefits for children.  
States at different stages in reforming their  
systems will also have help training staff for  
the development and delivery of these new  
services and putting in place the infrastruc-  
ture needed to administer and oversee their  
delivery and child outcomes.

The Family First Prevention Services Act  
over time also will take important steps to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

ensure children who need to enter foster care will be placed in the least restrictive setting appropriate to their needs, by targeting federal dollars only on smaller family-foster homes and on other care settings for children and youth with special treatment needs or those in special circumstances, such as pregnant and parenting teens or older youth in independent living settings. A number of states already have undertaken special efforts to reduce the number of children in congregate care and to preserve group care settings for children with special treatment needs.

Children and society pay a high cost when the current systems fail to adequately address the needs of the children who come to the attention of our child welfare systems, nearly 80 percent of whom are victims of neglect. We believe that the specific changes proposed will go far in encouraging state and local child welfare systems, private providers, the courts and youth and families who have been involved in the system to work together to achieve significant change for children over the next decade.

We look forward to working with you to ensure these new child welfare finance reforms will truly benefit children who come to the attention of the child welfare system and to continue to explore additional improvements on their behalf to ensure they all have safe, permanent families. Thank you for your continuing leadership on behalf of these children.

Sincerely,

SHARON OSBORNE,  
*Board Chair, Children's Home  
Society of America.*

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF WISCONSIN,  
*Milwaukee, WI.*

Hon. VERN BUCHANAN,  
*Chairman, Human Resources Subcommittee,  
House Committee on Ways & Means, Wash-  
ington DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN BUCHANAN: Children's Hospital of Wisconsin strongly supports the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016 (H.R. 5456). We applaud your leadership on this important issue.

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin (Children's) is the region's only independent health care system dedicated solely to the health and well-being of children. We serve children from every county in the state and are recognized as one of the leading pediatric health care centers in the United States. In addition, Children's is the largest not-for-profit, community-based child and family serving agency in Wisconsin. Through our Community Services work, we provide a continuum of care to more than 15,000 children and families annually. This includes family preservation and support, child and family counseling, child welfare, child advocacy and protection, and foster care and adoption services.

We strongly support the Family First Prevention Services Act that that would allow funds under Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to be used for the first time for evidence-based prevention services to help keep children at risk of placement in foster care safely at home with their parents or with kin. The legislation represents a significant and meaningful shift in child welfare policy by prioritizing up-front, evidence-based services to keep families together. We know from experience and empirical research that this is important for the healthy development of children.

The bill also makes significant advancements to integrate interventions and measures focused on child well-being into the child welfare system. Children's believes that prioritizing and providing accountability for child well-being, in addition to

safety and permanency, is critical to achieving better outcomes for children and society and positioning children to thrive into adulthood.

Children's is committed to improving the health and well-being of children and families. We believe the Family First Prevention Services Act will enable the child welfare system to better serve our most vulnerable children and families.

Sincerely,

AMY HERBST,  
*Vice President, Child Well-Being,  
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin.*

FIRST FOCUS  
CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN,  
*Washington, DC, June 14, 2016.*

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,  
*Chairman, Committee on Finance,  
U.S. Senate, Washington DC.*

Hon. VERN BUCHANAN,  
*Chairman, Human Resources Subcommittee,  
Committee on Ways and Means, House of  
Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. SANDER LEVIN,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and  
Means, House of Representatives, Wash-  
ington, DC.*

Hon. RON WYDEN,  
*Ranking Member, Committee on Finance, U.S.  
Senate, Washington DC.*

Hon. LLOYD DOGGETT,  
*Ranking Member, Human Resources Sub-  
committee, Committee on Ways and Means,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN BRADY AND HATCH, RANKING MEMBERS LEVIN AND WYDEN, CHAIRMAN BUCHANAN AND RANKING MEMBER DOGGETT: On behalf of the First Focus Campaign for Children (FFCC), a bipartisan organization committed to making children and their families a priority in federal policy and budget decisions, I am writing in strong support of H.R. 5456, the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016. This bill that makes important policy changes in federal child welfare spending that better support the needs of vulnerable children and families.

Currently, there are 415,000 children in the foster care system, a number that has increased by 3.5 percent from 2014. Nearly 31 percent of children placed in foster care were removed due to parental alcohol or drug use, and in some states, the percentage of removal due to parental substance abuse is closer to 60 percent. In addition, 57,000 children in foster care live in group homes or congregate care settings. These children and youth do not have a clinical need to be in such a setting, and should be with families who can provide love and support.

The Family First Prevention Services Act of 2016 contains many important provisions that address these poor statistics and will make a significant impact in strengthening and keeping families together. For the first time states will be able to use federal dollars from Title IV-E of the Social Security Act to provide time-limited, evidence-based services to families. The services are aimed to help prevent children from entering the foster care system by allowing federal reimbursement to families for mental health services, substance abuse treatment, and in-home parent skill-based programs. In addition, the bill incentivizes states to ensure that children are placed in family-based settings by only allowing federal reimbursement after an assessment has occurred and it has been determined that the child should be placed in a quality residential treatment program.

The legislation also includes a number of other provisions aimed to reform and

strengthen the child welfare system including the extension of the Title IV-B program, improving supports for youth transitioning to adulthood, establishing model foster care licensing standards, and calling for a GAO review to examine compliance of states in reinvesting savings from the federal adoption assistance reimbursement for special needs kids.

We look forward to working with you to ensure these new child welfare finance reforms will truly benefit children who come to the attention of the child welfare system and to continue to explore additional improvements on their behalf to ensure they all have safe, permanent families. Thank you for your continued leadership on behalf of these children.

Sincerely,

BRUCE LESLEY,  
*President.*

## CELEBRATING THE EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF MRS. SYLVIA CRIER

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mrs. Sylvia Crier on receiving the annual New Orleans Excellence in Teaching Award from New Schools for New Orleans. The Excellence in Teaching Award is given to a teacher that goes above and beyond for their students and who has a powerful impact on their school community.

Mrs. Crier began her teaching career more than 51 years ago when New Orleans public schools were newly integrated. Prior to starting her teaching career, Mrs. Crier received her Bachelor's of Science in English from Tuskegee University and moved to New Orleans shortly after—and we're glad she did.

At the young age of 75, Mrs. Crier has taught English, U.S. History, civics and business to generations of New Orleans students. Currently, the students of McDonough 35 High are lucky enough to have a teacher who is invested in not only their educational achievement but also their professional and personal development.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the Crier family in celebrating Mrs. Crier's dedication to her students and receiving this achievement.

## RECOGNIZING W. MARK DONALD, DMD, MAGD AS THE 52ND PRES- IDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF GEN- ERAL DENTISTRY

HON. GREGG HARPER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2016

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the occasion of the 2016 Academy of General Dentistry's Annual meeting in Boston, Massachusetts to commend and congratulate W. Mark Donald, DMD, MAGD, for his service as the 52nd President of the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) 2015–2016.

A Louisville, Mississippi native, Dr. Donald is a graduate of Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi School of

Dentistry. He has served in private practice and has continued to deliver professional dental care and oral care education to the citizens in his local community for the past 28 years.

Dr. Donald is the first dentist from Region 12 of the AGD and the Mississippi AGD to hold an elected national office and to become the national President of this organization.

The Academy of General Dentistry was founded in 1952 with the foundational core principal of continuing education for general dentists to advance their knowledge, education and training in all fields of dentistry through post-graduate continuing education.

The Academy of General Dentistry is the second largest dental professional organization in North America with over 40,000 members consisting of 62 constituents in the United States and Canada with student and international members.

Members of the Academy of General Dentistry are required to acquire continuing education as a membership requirement and can obtain a coveted Fellowship and Mastership in the AGD.

Fellows in the AGD make up 15% of the membership and only 5% of the membership obtain the coveted Mastership award. Dr. Donald obtained the Mastership award in 2009.

Dr. Donald has been a member of the AGD since 1988 and has served in both appointed and elected positions of leadership within the AGD. He was appointed to the Legislative and Governmental Affairs Council in 2000 and served as chair from 2003 to 2006. He was elected as Regional Director of Region 12 and served for five years and two as chair. He has been elected to serve as AGD Speaker of the House, and in 2013 he was elected as the AGD Vice President.

Dr. Donald was instrumental in the conception, formulation and implementation of the AGD advocacy strategic plan including the introduction and initiation of the AGD Advocacy fund and the AGD Hill Day and has helped guide the AGD advocacy efforts for the general dentists for the past 16 years.

Dr. Donald received the first Dentist of the Year award in his home state of Mississippi in 2010 and was recognized as the 2016 Alumnus of the Year for the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry. He is the first and current project chair of the Mississippi Mission of Mercy which has provided 1.3 million dollars of free dental care to 2,800 patients in Mississippi.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Dr. W. Mark Donald, DMD, MAGD for his service as the 52nd President of the Academy of General Dentistry, and also to acknowledge the significance that the Academy of General Dentistry has had on the profession of dentistry, the oral health care delivery system of the United States, and the importance of oral health care for all our citizens.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF BRAD DOHERTY

#### HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2016*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the accomplishments of a remarkable community member, Brownsville Herald Photo

Editor Brad Doherty. Mr. Doherty recently retired after nearly 33 years of dedicated service to the newspaper and the Brownsville community.

Born in the Texas Panhandle town of Slaton, Mr. Doherty dreamed of becoming a basketball player, but traded in his basketball for a camera in college. Mr. Doherty earned a degree from the University of Texas at Austin's College of Fine Arts before joining the staff at The Brownsville Herald.

Mr. Doherty was passionate about telling stories through photojournalism. For more than three decades, Mr. Doherty has been present at community events including football games, graduations, and festivals like Brownsville's famous Charro Days Fiesta.

In addition to working full-time at the newspaper, Mr. Doherty served as an adjunct professor of photography at the University of Texas at Brownsville, he became a highly regarded professor. He was a mentor to many aspiring journalists and many of his photojournalism students went on to become his co-workers at The Brownsville Herald.

Despite his busy days, he always found a way to spend time with his wife, Anna, daughter, Kenya, and their Weimaraners. The family often traveled to Real de Catorce, Mexico where Mr. Doherty would photograph scenes from both the bustling village and the stark plains surrounding it.

Brad Doherty left an indelible mark on The Brownsville Herald and the community it serves. Mr. Doherty is an immensely talented photographer and teacher, and he will be missed by his colleagues and by all those who have seen Brownsville come alive through his photography.

#### FRANKIE'S STORY

#### HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2016*

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Frankie Prout, a young man from the Port Richmond area of Philadelphia described by his devoted mother Jacqueline as happy and well-loved by everyone who knew him. I also rise in honor of the 129 victims of drug overdose deaths each day; 78 of those from opioids.

In February of 2012, at the tragically young age of 20, Frankie succumbed to a heroin overdose in a half-way house, preceded by his addiction to Percocet—an addiction that began two years earlier with a prescription from the dentist. After repeated attempts to seek rehabilitation and attempts to qualify for meaningful treatment, Frankie was denied the resources he needed to overcome his addiction.

We must remind one another of people like Frankie, and put names and faces to the nearly 30,000 people who fall victim to opioid overdose each year. But we must also take action to make that tragic number zero. We as elected leaders must not abandon any more victims like Frankie. And we cannot stand by as mothers like Jacqueline bury their children.

#### THE COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION'S POSITION LIMITS LITERATURE REVIEW

#### HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2016*

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an important document related to the ongoing work to finalize a position limits rulemaking at the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). The document, an unpublished draft literature review prepared by the CFTC's Office of the Chief Economist (OCE), is titled "Analysis of the Various Economic Studies Cited in Comment Letters in the Position Limits Rulemaking."

The House Committee on Agriculture (Committee) conducted oversight of research practices at OCE based on a report published by the CFTC's Office of Inspector General (CFTC OIG). As part of this oversight initiative, the Committee requested, obtained, and reviewed documents and information related to the CFTC OIG's report. As a result of its oversight efforts, the Committee obtained a literature review on position limits that was never finalized or circulated to the full commission.

Having reviewed the draft literature review prepared by the CFTC's own economists, I believe it presents a comprehensive overview of the current state of economic research on excessive speculation and an objective analysis of the potential utility of position limits. The document discusses in detail the ongoing and vigorous debate among economists about what constitutes excessive speculation and what, if any, impact it might have on prices and volatility in the commodity futures markets. In addition, the document summarizes and provides a brief analysis of many of the most important academic studies cited by commenters and utilized by CFTC staff in drafting the proposed rule.

On June 14, 2016, I requested that CFTC Chairman Massad make this document public because I believe the insights and information contained in this report will benefit the general public's understanding of and ability to comment on the proposed rule. On June 17, 2016, Chairman Massad declined on the grounds that (i) the document was a summary of studies submitted during the comment period and, (ii) it was never intended to be public.

The document, however, is much more than a summary of studies submitted during the comment period; it also is a wide-ranging examination of how to define excessive speculation, how to measure it, and how it may impact markets.

For reference, I have included the entirety of the conclusion section here:

Economists debate whether "excessive speculation," meaning a link between large speculation positions and unwarranted price changes or price volatility, exists in these regulated markets, and if so to what degree. The question presented is a surprisingly difficult one to answer. All the empirical studies on this question have drawbacks, and none is conclusive. This inconclusivity is not surprising. It is inevitable, given the economic uncertainties that inhere in the data and the complexity of the question. There are many theoretical and empirical assumptions, and often multiple leaps of faith, that

are needed to transform and interpret raw market data into meaningful and persuasive results. There is no decisive statistical method for establishing evidence for or against position limits in the commodity.

Those that use Granger causality methodology tend to conclude that there is no evidence of excessive speculation or its consequences on price returns and price volatility, and many industry commenters opposed to position limits used this methodology. But that methodology is peculiarly sensitive to model design choices, and above we have analyzed designed modelling decisions that may have affected the ultimate conclusions of these studies. Moreover, there are countervailing Granger studies showing a link between large speculative positions and price volatility. And studies such as Cheng, Kirilenko, and Xiong, *Convective Risk Flows in Commodity Futures Markets* (working paper 2012), indicate that some Granger studies may mask the impact of excessive speculation in times of financial stress.

Those that use comovement and cointegration methods tend to conclude there is evidence of deleterious effects of “excessive speculation.” Yet comovement just tests for correlation, not causation, and a correlation between large financial trading in the commodity markets and price changes and volatility could be driven by a common causal agent such as macroeconomic factors.

Those studies that use models of fundamental supply and demand reach a whole host of divergent opinions on the subject, each opinion only as strong as the many modelling choices.

In this way, the economic literature is inconclusive. Even clearly written, well-respected papers often contain nuances. It is telling that Hamilton, *Causes and Consequences of the Oil Shock of 2007–2008*, Brookings Paper on Economic Activity (2009), has been cited by both proponents and opponents of position limits.

What can be said with certainty is summarized in the Commission’s NPRM: that large speculative positions and outsized market power pose risks to a well-functioning marketplace. These risks may very well differ depending on commodity market structure, but can in some markets cause real-world price impacts through a higher risk premium as a component of total price. There are also economic studies indicating some correlation between increased speculation and price volatility in times of financial stress, but this correlation does not imply causation. There are studies indicating that in certain markets, such as crude oil, or certain time periods, such as times of financial stress, the impact of excessive speculation may be greater. These findings are all exceptions to the general rule that increased participation of speculators should generally be expected to lead to better price discovery and less unwarranted price volatility.

Comment letters on either side declaring that the matter is settled in their favor among respectable economists are simply incorrect. The best economists on both sides of the debate concede that there is a legitimate debate afoot. This analysis paper documents that the academic debate amongst economists about the magnitude, prevalence, and pervasiveness of the risk of outsized market positions has reputable and legitimate standard-bearers for opposing positions.

While I have my own opinion about the utility of a position limits regime, my push to make this document public has nothing to do with a disagreement over the outcome of this specific policy debate. I believe that to make informed decisions it is important that lawmakers, policy makers, and the public have

access to the best available information. This literature review, much like other whitepapers, studies, and analyses published by OCE, provides such information in a manner that is clear and understandable.

It is my hope that this information will be used to continue to improve our understanding of derivatives markets and the regulatory rules we enact to govern them. For this reason, I am making this report public prior to the July 13 closing date of the comment period for the CFTC’s position limits rulemaking.

The cover memo, full literature review, and all of the correspondence between the CFTC and the Committee regarding this document are available on the Committee’s website at [http://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/position\\_limits\\_analysis.pdf](http://agriculture.house.gov/uploadedfiles/position_limits_analysis.pdf).

I would like to also submit the following letters:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, June 14, 2016.

Hon. TIMOTHY G. MASSAD,  
*Chairman, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN MASSAD: The House Committee on Agriculture is conducting oversight of research practices at the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission’s (CFTC) Office of the Chief Economist (OCE) based on a report published by the agency’s Office of Inspector General (OIG). As part of this oversight initiative, the Committee requested documents and information related to the OIG’s report and discovered the existence of a draft literature review on position limits that was never finalized or circulated to the full commission. I write to request that you direct CFTC staff to finalize and make public this report for use in the Commission’s ongoing work on the position limits rulemaking.

On February 18, 2016, the OIG published a report following up on a 2014 review of OCE research programs. After interviewing OCE economists, the OIG decided to expand its review of OCE to include research topic selection due to allegations that the Chief Economist has refused to permit research on topics relevant to the agency’s mission, including position limits, and economists have begun limiting their research proposals to non-controversial topics based on a perception that the Chief Economist will not permit research that may conflict with the official positions of the CFTC.

The OIG’s findings were deeply troubling, and the Committee requested documents and communications related to the OIG’s investigation for additional oversight. Among the documents the Committee received was a draft literature review summarizing and analyzing economic studies cited in comment letters on the position limits rulemaking that was sent to your office on June 30, 2015. The version we have seen is labeled draft number 20, but does not appear to have been submitted for final review within OCE after it was shared with your office.

I have reviewed the document, and I believe it presents a comprehensive overview of the current state of economic research on excessive speculation and an objective analysis of the potential utility of position limits. The report discusses in detail the ongoing and vigorous debate among economists about what constitutes excessive speculation and what, if any, impact it might have on prices and volatility in the commodity futures markets. The authors of this report raise important questions about whether position limits are an effective tool for limiting the effects of excessive speculation. They also highlight the market stabilizing effects of

speculative activity and suggest that suppressing such activity may carry unintended risks, such as disruptions to liquidity and price discovery.

I appreciate your work on the recent supplement to the proposed position limits rulemaking. Your proposal takes steps towards addressing several of the concerns that have been raised before both this Committee and your agency. As stakeholders and market participants review the new language and file their comments, this report, which puts the best economic literature in context, may help clarify what can and cannot be accomplished in the final rule.

Position limits are a complex regulatory tool and their impact on markets is uncertain. Given the sweeping nature of this rulemaking and the intense debate it has provoked since its inception, this even-handed report prepared by the Commission’s own economists should serve as an invaluable resource for the Commission and the public. Therefore, the Committee requests that you finalize this report before continuing with the next steps in the rulemaking process.

The Committee on Agriculture is the principal authorizing committee for all matters related to agriculture and commodity exchanges in the House of Representatives and “shall have general oversight responsibilities” as set forth in House Rule X.

Please respond to this request in writing on or before June 24, 2016. Your response should specify the date by which the literature review will be finalized and made public. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Emily Wong or Paul Balzano of the majority staff.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,  
*Chairman.*

U.S. COMMODITY FUTURES  
TRADING COMMISSION,  
Washington, DC, June 17, 2016.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing in response to your letter of June 14, 2016 regarding the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission’s (“CFTC” or “Commission”) rulemaking concerning position limits on derivatives.

As you note in your letter, the position limits rulemaking (“proposal” or “rule”) is a very important one. As with all rulemakings, the Commission is following a transparent and thorough process. No current Commissioner was in office when the initial position limits rule was proposed, and therefore we have taken the time to listen to market participants and consider the proposal very carefully. The Commission has made extensive efforts to ensure the public has ample opportunity to comment on the proposal and has extended the public comment period multiple times.

As part of any rulemaking process, all comment letters are made publicly available on the Commission’s website. Commission staff routinely summarize these comments, which can be helpful to Commissioners and staff because comments are often voluminous in detail. In the case of this rule, some of the comment letters referenced studies regarding position limits or related matters conducted by third parties, including academic researchers, economists and trade organizations. The draft document you mention in your letter is a summary of studies submitted during the rulemaking comment periods. A majority of these studies were submitted prior to the publication of the proposed rule in December 2013 and were summarized and listed in that 2013 proposal.

While staff summaries of public comments (or material referred to in the comments)

are internal Commission documents and not themselves published as part of the final rule, I can assure you that, consistent with normal practice, any final rule will summarize the comments we receive, including those comments that refer to third party studies, just as was done for the proposed rule published in December 2013.

I appreciate the complexity of the issues surrounding the position limits rule, and the importance of thoroughly and fully considering public comments. I have made it a priority to finalize a position limits rule this calendar year and believe we are making good progress toward that goal.

If you have further questions, please contact me or Cory Claussen.

Sincerely,

TIMOTHY G. MASSAD,  
Chairman.

IN MEMORY OF MEMPHIS POLICE  
K-9 OFFICER GUNNER

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2016*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with the people of Memphis who are mourning the loss of a member of the Memphis Police Department's K-9 unit.

Gunner, a fearless German Shepherd, served with his partner and handler Sgt. Roosevelt Twilley for five years before retiring in 2010.

In 2009, Gunner risked his life to help apprehend a suspected thief and saved his handler's life in the process. Gunner was stabbed 10 times during the incident. After emergency surgery and a blood transfusion, he returned to duty just two months later.

Last week, Gunner was laid to rest by his brothers and sisters of the Memphis Police Department in recognition of his life-long service to the safety of Memphis.

As a State Senator I offered legislation to increase the penalty for shooting police dogs like Gunner because an attack on a member of the K-9 unit is an attack on all our police, and we need to protect those who protect us from harm.

We are grateful for their service and we mourn the loss of K-9 officer Gunner.

HONORING MR. FRANK OMATSU

**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2016*

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Frank Omatsu, an outstanding citizen who has done so much for his country and his community in his 92 years.

A native Californian, Frank was born in 1924 in Los Angeles, where he lived until the outbreak of World War II. His family was then uprooted and forced across the country to the Jerome War Relocation Center, a Japanese imprisonment camp in Arkansas. Frank was only a high school student at the time, and yet despite the cruelty of his imprisonment, he never wavered in his dedication to his country. When the imprisonment camps were finally closed, instead of returning back to the life

from which he was uprooted, Frank chose to join the U.S. Army. He served in the Military Intelligence Service, 77th Division, where he served overseas in the Philippines and Japan. Even after his family was treated like prisoners, he chose to fight for his country.

When Frank returned home from the war, he immediately went back to school to complete his education, and attended Los Angeles City College and the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). After graduating from UCLA, he became the first 'Nisei,' or second-generation Japanese American, to manage the Sumitomo Bank of California. As a manager, Mr. Omatsu provided loans and support to Japanese Americans returning from internment camps, helping them to get back on their feet financially. Always an active leader in his community, Frank was Finance Officer for Commodore Perry Post 525 of the American Legion Veterans organization. In 1985, he served as chairperson of the Little Tokyo Centennial Time Capsule. This time capsule, buried beneath a tree at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, preserves the culture and history of the Japanese American community in Los Angeles at the time. The following year, Frank founded the 'Astronaut Ellison Onizuka Memorial Board' to honor the first Asian Pacific American to reach outer space who was tragically killed in the *Challenger* Space Shuttle in 1986. The board celebrates the life and upholds the legacy of Astronaut Onizuka as an inspiration to future generations of Asian Pacific Americans.

Building upon his legacy of serving others and improving his community, Frank was one of the "magnificent seven" original board members of Keiro Senior Healthcare, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of senior life for the Los Angeles Japanese-American community. Keiro has provided quality care, bilingual resources, and culturally sensitive programs to the elderly Japanese American community. The Keiro facilities themselves have become a cornerstone of the community, where families would gather to celebrate their rich cultural history.

As one of the original board members of Keiro, Frank used his finance and banking knowledge to ensure the success of the organization, which has been operating since 1961. He served on the board for 42 years, helping to make Keiro a cherished and valued institution in the Japanese American community in Los Angeles and across the state of California.

Along with his colleagues, friends, and all those whose lives he impacted through his work, I am so grateful to Frank Omatsu for his lifelong dedication to Keiro and the Japanese American community. I congratulate him on this milestone, and wish him many more!

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 300TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF  
STRATHAM

**HON. FRANK C. GUINTA**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2016*

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 300th anniversary of the Town of Stratham, New Hampshire.

Though formally incorporated as a town in New Hampshire on March 20, 1716, Stratham saw settlers on its lands formally known as Squamscott Patent going back to the 1600's. I know that these early settlers must have felt the way its current residents feel today, that it is a beautiful part of our historic state, with a great deal to offer families and businesses starting out there.

Stratham has been the home to many influential leaders for the State of New Hampshire including former Members of the U.S. House of Representatives David Barker Jr. and Josiah Bartlett Jr., former Members of the U.S. Senate Daniel Clark and Maurice Murphy Jr., and Paine Wingate who served in both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. Thomas Wiggin also hailed from Stratham and served as the first governor of what was then called the Upper Plantations of New Hampshire. Many of these influential figures from Stratham went on to make great contributions to the Granite State, and their family names still remain strong in the residents here today who proudly carry on in the name of their forefathers.

For the past 300 years, this town has been a landmark of independence and success, and the residents of Stratham should be proud of all that they've accomplished throughout its storied history. I am pleased to join with the citizens of Stratham as they mark this great milestone for their town and community, and it is truly an honor to represent them in Congress.

HONORING THE CAREER OF  
DETECTIVE JOSEPH SMOLA

**HON. JOHN KATKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2016*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the esteemed career of Detective Joseph Smola, who served over 28 years with the City of Syracuse Police Department.

Detective Smola was appointed to the Syracuse Police Department on September 16, 1985, and served commendably in various units within the Department until his retirement in March of 2014. As a result of his excellent service throughout his 28 years of service, he received two Divisional Commendations, twelve Bureau Commendations, twelve Departmental Commendations, The Meritorious Service Award in 2004, as well as several letters of appreciation.

During my time as a federal prosecutor I had the opportunity to serve with Detective Smola as part of the Syracuse Gang Violence Task Force. Detective Smola was an integral part of this effort for more than a decade and his work helped to drastically reduce the gang presence in some of our community's most violent neighborhoods.

For over 28 years, Detective Smola served with great dignity, loyalty and devotion to our community. He has truly helped to make the City of Syracuse a better, safer place for its citizens.

# RECOGNIZING ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2016*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as we close out the month of June, Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month, it is critical to note that the effort to enhance treatment and find a cure for Alzheimer's must be prioritized year round. Yet, there is no better time to reflect upon the progress that has been made in this effort, the long road ahead and opportunities just around the corner.

According to the Alzheimer's Association, 5.4 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's or related dementia and as the baby boom population ages, that number is expected to skyrocket. This devastating disease impacts patients and families alike. Over 15 million family members and friends provide over 18 billion hours of unpaid care to their loved ones annually, at tremendous emotional and often financial sacrifice.

Alzheimer's is a progressive disease that affects an individual's cognitive abilities. While Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death for Americans, it is the only disease among the ten leading causes of death in America that cannot be prevented cured or even slowed.

Alzheimer's is also the most expensive disease in America and incurs catastrophic costs to Medicare and Medicaid—approximately \$236 billion in 2016. On average, Medicare spends three times more on seniors with Alzheimer's than without.

To ensure that optimum care is provided to every Alzheimer's patient, we need to find innovative ways to improve quality of care. To this end, I have introduced legislation—the Health Outcomes, Planning, and Education (HOPE) for Alzheimer's Act—which will amend the Social Security Act to add an additional one-time benefit for care planning services for Medicare beneficiaries newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. This one time comprehensive care planning session will arm patients and caregivers with the facts, prognosis, and most efficacious treatment plan.

It is our moral imperative to support individuals with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. We have an obligation to care for our citizens as they age and we must support them as they struggle to face the challenges of this disease.

HOPE fulfills this obligation by ensuring quality of life for Alzheimer's patients. These patients are often hospitalized because comorbidities, such as diabetes, become uncontrolled when patients are no longer able to manage their own care. In other instances, medicines prescribed to control the symptoms of Alzheimer's can be rendered ineffective when patients, unequipped with sufficient information, use them in conjunction with other prescriptions. Care planning can ensure this does not happen, ensuring that symptoms are controlled to the extent possible, so patients can have the best quality of life.

Not only would HOPE improve health outcomes for Alzheimer's patients, it would also mitigate the huge, unnecessary costs associated with preventable trips to hospitals and emergency rooms. This is especially impor-

tant, as Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in America and presents a unique cost to Medicare and Medicaid.

A cost estimate commissioned by the Alzheimer's Association and conducted by Healthspiren, a DC based health care consulting firm, indicated that as a result of this legislation, net federal health spending would decrease by \$692 million over the 10-year period.

The cost estimate is based on a study tracking 1,756 patients newly diagnosed with dementia, depression or mild cognitive impairment, broken into two cohorts, one cohort receiving comprehensive care planning and chronic care management through a collaborative care model and the other cohort not.

The study showed a significant savings for those patients enrolled in the collaborative care model as opposed to their peers and based on the study, the HOPE benefit is estimated to have a per person savings of \$600 and per person cost \$200 for a 3:1 return on investment.

Passage of my legislation, which has 291 bipartisan cosponsors, will empower individuals with much-needed information to outline their future treatments and care—giving patients HOPE, and a plan for their future.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support my bill and hope that the momentum brought to this issue during Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month carries forward.

## TRIBUTE TO RANDY LANOIX

**HON. GARRET GRAVES**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2016*

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Randy Lanoix of Donaldsonville, Louisiana, as he nears the end of his term as the 111th Chairman of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America, also known as the Big "I." Randy was installed as Chairman of the Big "I" in September 2015, and he has been a strong, thoughtful and charismatic leader for independent insurance agents across the country.

Randy has a strong track record in the independent agency system, serving as president of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of Louisiana (IIABL) in 2001 and as the Louisiana representative on the Big "I" national Board of Directors from January 2005 to September 2010. He received the Lou Daniel award, which is the highest honor bestowed by the IIABL, in 2010. Randy is also a past recipient of the "Mr. Chairman" award for his work as Louisiana's legislative chairman and his work with the Louisiana state legislature.

On the national level, Lanoix has served on the Professional Liability Committee, the Trusted Choice® Board of Directors, numerous task forces, and two terms on the Government Affairs Committee, where he was chairman of State Government Affairs. In these leadership positions, Randy has always sought to promote an environment where independent agents, in both Louisiana and across the country, can continue to thrive in their business and represent their customers.

Randy is the owner of the Lanoix Insurance Agency in Port Allen, Louisiana which is lo-

cated in my congressional district. He has been married to his wife Nell for more than 36 years, and they have two sons, Bryan and David, who work in the family agency alongside their father. Their family also includes daughters-in-law Leslie and Michelle along with their grandson Brooks and their granddaughter Riley.

I am pleased to join Randy's colleagues from across Louisiana and the nation in congratulating him as he finishes his term as Chairman of the Big "I."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD M. NOLAN**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2016*

Mr. NOLAN. Mr. Speaker, on June 21, 2016, I was unavoidably detained due to a flight delay caused by inclement weather in the Washington, DC area.

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call No. 334, I would have voted NO (On H.R. 5525, End Taxpayer Funded Cell Phones Act of 2016).

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call No. 335, I would have voted AYE (On H.R. 5388, Support for Rapid Innovation Act of 2016).

Had I been present and voting on Roll Call No. 336, I would have voted AYE (H.R. 5389, Leveraging Emerging Technologies Act of 2016).

## HONORING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHARTERING OF ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY

**HON. BILL FOSTER**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2016*

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 70th anniversary of the chartering of the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory, located in my district in Illinois.

Argonne traces its beginnings to experiments by the renowned physicist Enrico Fermi, who led researchers in creating the world's first self-sustaining nuclear reaction. From its initial mission to fulfill the promise of the atom as a new energy source, Argonne has grown into a multidimensional laboratory addressing a range of major scientific and societal needs, still however, with the primary mission to invent, innovate, and protect energy technologies for the nation.

The lab's work now spans the spectrum from basic research to applied science in areas including physics, materials and chemistry, math and computer science, life sciences, renewable energy, nuclear energy, energy storage, transportation, establishing energy surety and securing critical infrastructure. And Argonne remains on the cutting edge as it extends its expertise into new scientific endeavors including protein characterization, nanomaterials, molecular engineering and urban sciences.

I am pleased to have in my district a national laboratory that is a longstanding global

leader in battery research. Argonne continues to license its chemistries for use in bestselling electric vehicles and has positioned itself to meet the emerging storage needs of the new electric grid. This unique history, combined with its role as convener of a regional ecosystem of governments, universities, non-profits, industries and other public and private entities delivering innovative research and technology, means Argonne National Laboratory is a big reason why Chicago and the Midwest will be a focal point in the impending clean energy revolution.

I am also proud to say that not only is Argonne home to Mira, one of the world's fastest supercomputers, and the Advanced Photon Source, the brightest X-ray source in the Western Hemisphere, but that ongoing updates to these and other user facilities at the lab will help maintain U.S. leadership in scientific discovery.

Argonne is not only a scientific, but also an economic engine for my district and the state of Illinois, as the lab employs some 3,000 people, attracts thousands more as visitors and scientific facility users, and spends approximately \$300 million annually through procurements to a diverse group of large and small businesses to support its overall mission.

Finally, by employing more than 400 graduate and undergraduate students each year and annually hosting approximately 3,000 elementary, middle, and high school students for various programs, the lab is also an important educator and contributor to the STEM pipeline on which future prosperity of this country depends.

Clearly, scientific research is fundamental to the progress of society. The 70th anniversary of the chartering of Argonne National Laboratory is an excellent opportunity to reflect upon the contributions this world-class institution has made, is making, and is poised to make in the years to come—across an array of essential, life-changing disciplines.

Mr. Speaker I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the 70th anniversary of the chartering of Argonne National Lab and I yield back the balance of my time.

HONORING SHERIFF CARLOS  
CARRIZALES

**HON. FILEMON VELA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2016*

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the late Sheriff Carlos Carrizales for a lifetime of distinguished service to Bee County and the state of Texas. A selfless public servant, he spent his entire career in law enforcement and served as Bee County Sheriff for the past 12 years. He will be remembered as an admired community leader.

In addition to his steadfast professional service to Bee County, Sheriff Carrizales was active in several community organizations. He served on the advisory board of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities program and was a dedicated supporter of the Boys & Girls Club.

Sheriff Carrizales also enjoyed success in sports. He earned a football scholarship to Monterrey Tech, where in 1976, his team won the Collegiate Football National Championship. He earned the title Texas State Powerlifting Champion in 1980 and was inducted into the Beeville Sports Hall of Fame in 2005 and 2006.

He is greatly missed by Pat, his wife of 35 years, his two sons, Philip and Andy, their families, and the thousands of Beeville residents he served and protected every day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to honor Sheriff Carrizales for his lifetime of service to the Bee County community.

HONORING CHARLES S. WEISS,  
PH.D.

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 28, 2016*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend Dr. Charles Weiss on the occasion of his retirement from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

Dr. Weiss, also known as "Chick," has been a member of the College of the Holy Cross

family for forty-one years. He joined the faculty as a member of the Department of Psychology, which he later chaired. As a member of the faculty, Chick was a well-loved professor, a sought after author, an inquisitive researcher, and an active participant in multiple College committees. Chick also served the College in several administrative roles, most recently as Director of the Office of Strategic Initiatives and Corporate and Foundation Relations. In this capacity, Chick has been pivotal in ensuring that the intellectual and financial assets of Holy Cross were available to numerous deserving organizations throughout my district.

While Chick has certainly left his mark on the College of the Holy Cross, it is his positive impact on Central Massachusetts that is truly remarkable. Through both his words and deeds, he has made the City of Worcester a better place. Among his many contributions, I know that he is most proud of his work with the Nativity School of Worcester, an all-scholarship middle school for economically disadvantaged boys that he helped found. Without him, there would be no Nativity School. Not only did Nativity School present him an award in recognition of his many contributions, the school named the award after him, and every year presents the Charles "Chick" Weiss Award to a member of the community who lives up to Chick's commitment to service—not an easy task.

In addition to his service to the Nativity School, Chick has served on the board of the Central and Western Massachusetts Chapter of the American Red Cross; the Children's Friend; The EcoTarium; the Greater Worcester Community Foundation and the Abby Kelly Foster School, just to name a few. I am particularly grateful to Chick for his leadership role on the Blackstone Valley Visitors Center Advisory Committee, a project that is particularly near and dear to my heart.

I am pleased to congratulate Chick on his retirement from the College of the Holy Cross. I know that his wife, Gayle, and son, Joe, will enjoy spending a bit more time with him, but I also know that his work in the City of Worcester is not done. Congratulations Chick on a professional life well lived, and best wishes for a happy retirement, and all that is ahead of you.